

Minutes and proceedings of the meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana.

Be it remembered that the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana held called meeting at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:27 p.m. on February 3, 2014.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Paula Pollitt (President), Jonathan Titus (Vice-President), Tim Shoaf, and Jerry Bragg. Clerk Treasurer, Diane Burton was also present.

Absent: Greg Sims. Jonathan Titus left early.

Purpose of meeting: Working Session

The meeting was called to order by Paula Pollitt.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – GRIFFEY & DLZ

Kathy Griffey handed out some copies of their plan for safe routes to school. Dr. Griffey stated this is the Comprehensive Plan that is conducted by and completed between Flat Rock-Hawcreek School Corporation and put together by DLZ for us. I made copies of what our summary is that we want to focus on tonight. Alan was the key person that we worked with DLZ as we got a Safe Routes to School Grant. That was about two years ago. We deliberately selected DLZ because they had completed the plan for the town of Hope and we wanted these two plans, the Safe Routes to School Plan and the Town of Hope Plan, to be so they sync together and that we didn't have to replicate or to have counter information in those two plans. The Safe Routes to School Plan is done in order to help us as a school corporation plan so that if we have an opportunity to change traffic patterns, either foot traffic, motor traffic or bus traffic, that we do it so that it's as well planned as possible and that everyone is as safe as possible to get to school. Deliberately the Safe Routes to School focuses on how to get people to walk and bike to school safely. There was a strong education component to what we did with this work throughout this grant. DLZ help us with that. We had a pilot fall program this year, walking and biking to school. The participation was low but we learned a lot with that. We didn't think the participation would be very high because it was a short term plan, it wasn't every day and the information that we gave out we knew that from that information and from what we gathered back from parents. We knew that parents who brought their children to school in a car had strong reasons for doing that and that we probably weren't going to encounter that in a short period of time. We also knew that we did not have in place the safe pathways that were required to actually make it work as well as possible. All of that was working against us to have high participation but even with that we had originally thought are we going to be able to find crossing guards. We had some really good ones that we found and trained. Through this grant we have now a planned way to train crossing guards. There are people around our area that if we need to and if we have a safe way for people to walk and bike to school, we could find people to be crossing guards. We also now have a way to train them. We learned some dos and don'ts about biking to school. One of the things we learned is that we probably need to have people stationed along the way of the bike path. We really don't have any way to do that so that we have them all bike together. That probably wouldn't work for us very well. In this pilot project that we have we've learned some things. This plan that we put in place we want to not build a stairway that doesn't go any place or the bridge to nowhere. As a school corporation we want to avoid doing that so we do not have plans in place for putting our sidewalks in place at this time on our school campus because they really would almost go nowhere so what's the point of doing that unless they actually lead somewhere. One of things we wanted to present to you was what the options were that we looked at. I'm going to let Alan talk about that because he knows all the ins and outs of that and to tell you that if the town of Hope were to look at putting in sidewalks that would join up to ones that would come onto the school campus, we have the I believe ability to put in the sidewalks on our school campus. They would be connected. We could either pull the students from the north of the school corporation or from the south either way. We could go either direction and connect them into sidewalks so that people could have a safe path onto the school grounds and then off of it. Alan Mize stated part of the study is we take an inventory of the existing conditions of the sidewalks within the school campus as well as the community within. Typically we go within a half of one mile. There's communities that have no bus transportations if you live within a mile of the school. If you live within a mile of the school, you walk. Obviously Flat Rock-Hawcreek buses all students. One of the key issues that they have is they even bus students from Goshen Meadows which is right across the street. If there is a safe passage for those kids to walk to school that eliminates

a bus route. It's a big savings in that situation. Discussion. Alan stated we identified areas that we can do. Part of the master plan for the Safe Routes to School Plan is two-fold. The school was able to get a grant through the Indiana Department of Transportation to do a master plan. The way it was set up before was you had to have a master plan in place and have basically your document in place before you could ask for money for specific projects. We identified projects based on we had a meetings with a committee as well as we had a public information meeting one evening. To highlight some specifics ones; the first project we identified was to make sure we have all the sidewalks within school campus. There are some sidewalks there now. It's not going to do any good if the school didn't have their sidewalks within their campus if we try to get sidewalks from the town or from Goshen Meadows to the school. So our first project we identified was interior sidewalks within the school campus particularly coming from South Street down what I call Daily Road, 775. That would be the map marked D1. Anytime you see in red is what we propose as new sidewalks, blue existing sidewalks. There is a sidewalk from South Street along State Road 9 to the school but it just drops off right there. It does go across the front of the school but the sidewalk along State Road 9 in front of the school is not being utilized by anybody. A small, little portion is to connect that into the sidewalk system on the north side school as well as from along Daily's Road, down by the tower into the ball park area. Connect that into the sidewalk that runs east west, south of the ball fields north of the track. Discussion. Alan stated it could possible come back along the tracks on the south side onto the school property to bypass some of that stuff to get it off the road as well. Tim stated we're in Hope but everyplace is getting that way, to me keeping it out by the road keeps is safer. Alan agreed. The other routes within the school campus on this first proposed project is the connectivity of the existing sidewalk at the old High School entrance along the drive into the school and then along Hauser Drive back in where the connection is now where they are doing the school drop offs. That is a preliminary, put a sidewalk in that area so when we do make a connection from Goshen Meadows, they have a place to cross and they have a place to walk either on the back side or along Hauser to the front side to that drive right there. That gets them to the front of the building. That was the first connectivity. The discussion then we talked about different things. We talked about going to Goshen Meadows first. One of the preliminary ones was we had all the sidewalks in Goshen Meadows and then we had the Hope Community Center to the school. Then we had various sidewalks within the town of Hope. From our discussions we felt the second priority is a connectivity between the Hope Community to the High School. Dr. Griffey stated that would be D2. Alan stated what we've shown here is going from the old school, down Walnut Street, directly to South Street, cut into the east to where you get over to 775. Making that connect with what was shown on D1. That was a direct straight route. If there are after school activities at the Community Center or ultimately if you can bus everybody to the Community Center, it would just be a straight walk. Maybe you bus them there and then the walk to the school or vice versa. It's a quarter of a mile or less. That was our second option. The third option, proposed project D3, is a perimeter front sidewalks on the streets like basically Schaefer Drive to the school within Goshen Meadows. At one time we had all the sidewalks within Goshen Meadows connecting. It is probably a better option to, let's get basically your arterial sidewalks put in place and then you can make the connectivity which that obviously going to be the most busy route. Let's get them off the street onto a sidewalk and then maybe it's a little safer. They can go side streets into that main area. Basically we're going all along Schaefer Drive pretty much and then we come across the south side of Hauser Drive over to the entrance of the school which makes that connection with what we have with the D1, the project one. Discussion. Tim stated trends change all the time. They went from sidewalks to well let's just have people walking on the street so now we are going back to sidewalks. Alan said that's the safe way to do it. Obviously the best way to do it is get them off the street, off of where the cars are. Discussion. Alan stated the original Safe Routes to School Projects where you have the Master Plan and then you would ask for infrastructure projects and you were capped at a \$250,000 limit. That has since went away. When we started this it was capped at \$250,000. That \$250,000 was all inclusive. That was not just construction cost. That was design cost. You had right away cost. Once you start buying right away on safe routes to school projects, you really hurt big time on how many feet of sidewalk you can put in there. If you can get sidewalks built within either the school property or within the existing right away of the town, that saves a lot. Tim stated on D2 you've got them going up Maple Street what if that moved over to Walnut Street. What I'm trying to recall was there ever a sidewalk that ran down Walnut Street. If there was, that right away might already exist. Alan stated I've got as part of the plan an existing conditions of sidewalks within Hope. In the big book, appendix A is existing conditions within the study limits. I've got existing that's in decent shape, I say good no change, existing sidewalks poor replaced and I've got missing sidewalks. So it pretty well was laid out

everywhere. Walnut does show both sides. Tim stated I was just looking at it as an option because distance wise you're almost identical. My question is if something like that arises does that throw a big monkey wrench into this at all. Alan answered no because it's obviously costing, we're showing here a preliminary cost, some price per foot that INDOT puts out. Like that project D2 that has the sidewalks from the Community Center out to South Street, we're looking basically at \$64,000 for probable construction cost. Construction projection \$10,000. \$74,000 before of hard, strict construction cost then you throw in design engineering. Hopefully there is no right away cost. You are up to like \$90,000. It's not set in stone by any means. Discussion. Dr. Griffey stated there was strong conversation about having a good path between the Community Center and the school. At every one of our input sessions that was a strong piece of the conversation. The Community Center has always been a big partner with us in trying to get that done. That's why we are bringing it here because these are not set in stone and for you to know what we can possibly do and where our connectors could be, would maybe then inform what potential plan if you do any projects then where we can connect them and make them work together. Discussion. Larry Simpson stated I was on the Reach Committee for this and I know the Community Center did say we would be more than willing because we do have a train staff there. We are a safe place. So even if you moved it over a block or two, it could still be the gathering point. You would just have to zig zag a little bit to get back on the path. I wanted to know is the goal to get the kids to walk. Because bicyclist will be on the street, correct. You don't want the bicyclist on the sidewalk. Kathy confirmed. Alan stated I think even if you had a sidewalk there and people knowing that is what it is for, you could put markings as like a bike route. They call them sharrows, shared arrows. There's a little bit of controversy to it because you don't do anything different then put the arrows down and a sign saying share the road which you're supposed to be doing legally anyway. Discussion. Alan stated that something to say about the school. Not only do they just get kids to and from the school on a path, sidewalk, it's also for the community. The school and the playground is a big draw for the community. Discussion. Tim brought up ways to get some funding. Alan stated you still can get monies for safe routes to schools, sidewalk, infrastructure projects but now it is being put in the same basically pot as other projects. You have to apply for federal funds through INDOT. There's a call for projects and that's when you submit your application. Schools that have their master plan in hand is a little bit ahead of the game because they've got this. They see what the money is. They've got their projects earmarked for what they want. What's good about this is maybe you'll get more money. You can put two or three of these projects together and get more than \$250,000. It used to be 100% federal money that paid for the infrastructure and 100% funding for the noninfrastructure. Now when it goes in the pot of money with these other projects, it's 80/20. The 20% has to come out of local funds. Dr. Griffey stated what we have been told is we would be just about as far ahead doing it on our own without going for the grant and not having the restrictions that would require or put us under as well as just doing it on our own and contracting someone to put in our sidewalks. That's why we think we can go ahead and do it that way. Alan stated another issue is when you go through INDOT to get federal aid money, it has to be brought to them through a municipality that has what they call an ERC, Employee of Responsible Charge. You have to go sit in for a one day session. You have to have someone in the town be an ERC. Usually the schools are not allowed to do that. The noninfrastructure they didn't have to have that. The infrastructure projects you do. Even like me, as a project manager at a consulting engineering firm, I've got to be an ERC just to run these projects. But it has to be brought to them by a municipality that's got an ERC. Another thing is to go through Trena and see if there is any grants that way to get sidewalks or when you do a storm sewer project. Say OK you're tearing this up, put the sidewalk in doing that as part of that cost. Tim stated the problem the town has, there's no funding in our taxes for sidewalks right now. We about have to find someplace to get it from like that. Is the school already committed to doing this then. Dr. Griffey answered we're not going to put in a sidewalk to nowhere. So there is no reason for us to put those sidewalks in unless we know that the town has got funding and is going to pursue a project. We're here to give you information so should that circumstance become available to the town, this information can be used for good planning. We know it's probably a couple or more years out even if this might be an opportunity for us. We did our plan and we want you to know that we are very interested in the next step should that be an option. Paula said I think this is something good to talk to Trena about and give her this information. See where we are as far as, we can only have so many grants a year. Alan stated I'm not sure OCRA grants or whichever grants you can get that's made specifically for sidewalks. Maybe there are or something. Tim stated there are probably like you say there's probably a lot of different ways of throwing in there. Discussion. Tim stated there's a lot of foot traffic that goes from Goshen Meadows into the main part of town. That's always been a missing link right there. I know myself I've always

wanted to get something going with the school and working together to get that. If you're looking for some sort of consensus as far as council goes, I'm all for doing everything we can to link everything up for you all out there. It's a win win. Dr. Griffey agreed it is a win win. Larry stated this would be a good project for your new town administrator to research. Maybe they'll have some information. I was with Fred Barnett on Saturday from Elizabethtown. They were given \$25,000 by Cummins because of the work they had already done in the town. Cummins has embraced us as a community as well. They built a playground out of it. We might be able to approach Cummins and find out what that particular grant award was. Another thing I think we've all heard that the next step for those people that have the big pot of money on the bike trails in Columbus is to go from Owens Bend on River Road out to Hope. If they came to Hope what would it take if they had the money to go ahead and once you get them across 9 on Hauser Drive, take them on Daily road and take it on into town with the painting. That's not sidewalks but that is a bike path. If they were going to do that on 600 which is another reason I think that we widen 600. If I understand right, was that they thought that could be a bike path. There's a lot of things we can certainly research to see if somebody else wants to help with the bill. Tim said I think it would be a very good partnership on it. Alan said the main reason why Dr. Griffey wanted me to be here with her to present this was the awareness of it. Each one references the other. In Hope the comp plan is just basically we knew it was going to be there, we put in there just a blurb that says be aware of the safe routes of school. In the safe routes to school plan we actually put a section in there that references and talks about the comp plan. Tim asked if the town is ready is the school ready to do something whenever the town is. Dr. Griffey stated we would need a little bit of advanced warning. It would be the next budget year potentially. Our experience with sidewalks so far at the school is we've already expanded several sections just around because of our new traffic pattern. We're trying to get the kids in the back part of Hope Elementary and the High School. We had real positive results from that. That was not necessarily a huge cost to us. We think we could do this. It may take us two budget years but we can get it done. Definitely. Jonathan stated speaking for me, I've always wanted to add more sidewalks. Those of us who grew up here, we walked everywhere. We need to talk to Trena and find out. If she can find us money, let's do something. Jerry stated I agree. I've always felt that too for quite a while. We need more sidewalks. Like you were saying, that connects the town from one end to the other. Paula stated if you guys want me to, I can contact Trena and have her start investigating this. Give her the information that we have and have her go ahead and start on getting some information together. Jonathan stated even if she can't find something right away, just so she knows we're interested. Paula said thank you so much. That was a lot of hard work. Dr. Griffey said it was exciting work and this is the kind of thing that is kind of fun.

CLAIM APPROVAL

Diane stated this is for three application fees and I emailed this to you guys. It's for IDEM; \$50.00 is for NPDES Permit Renewal, \$60.00 is for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification for Tony Lynch and Joe Seal and \$60.00 for Water Treatment and Distribution Certification Exam Applications DSS & WTZ Grades for Joe Seal. It's a total of \$170.00.

Tim made a motion for the approval of the claims. Jonathan seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

SALARY ORDINANCE EFFECTIVE DATE

Diane stated I need some clarification. The main thing that brought it up was the appointments. I didn't know if that stated from the date they were appointed or I would back date them. The State Board of Accounts said it really needs to be clarified and maybe you did this in the past. When you approve the Salary Ordinance, to also state when the effective date of that will be.

Tim made a motion that the 2014 Salary Ordinance that was approved be retroactive to January 1st, 2014. Diane stated just to clarify too for like animal control, would that salary then be determined by Matt Tallent since there's a range. Jonathan confirmed. The supervisor determines that. **Jonathan seconded.** Paula stated since we did with the Marshal and the Utility Supervisor, we put minimum and maximums on those this year. Are we the ones that gives out maximums then. Jonathan corrected not to exceed. Tim stated we gave them the 2% raise on the previous year. **Motion carries 3/0. Jerry abstained.**

PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROJECT

Larry stated as Trena had mentioned to the Town Council, she had come across an opportunity that she thought the town might be interested in. Paula stated we did meet on this. Larry confirmed we had a good meeting; Michael Dean and Randy Sims were there, Paula, myself, David Clouse. Basically \$25,000 to \$50,000 is available through this competitive grant. So we will be competing with other cities and towns. What we learned in talking about what might be a possible project for us. The lady (Beth) from OCRA who replaced our former OCRA rep. She seems very nice. I think she enjoyed meeting us and seeing our best asset which is the town square. In tossing around ideas she did say that it has to be "sexy". Just amping up the electricity in the park was not sexy enough. We need some lipstick on the pig basically. Out of that came some ideas. Randy Sims had called a meeting and all the not for profits in town were at this meeting. Out of that came the ideas that you see on this overhead shot of the town square. That included Terry Downey, Rural Letter Carrier's shed and that stuff being either absorbed by the Yellow Trail Museum or a different location being places in the square. One of the ideas was to extend the shelter house. Put those items in there so they can still be in the park. If you're extending the shelter house, you can do restrooms there that can be used year round. Obviously making the park handicap assessable is I think a priority for everybody. At least getting the ability to have wheelchairs go to the shelter house since that's the gathering point. The electrical needs of the park because we do flip breakers every time we do something in the shelter house. We could sell more electrified booths at Heritage Days for example and that draws a different type of vendor for that event. Putting terraced, a sloped hill in front of the bandstand because you can't sit there. You try to put a lawn chair on it and you're leaning so far forward you're going to fall. Everybody has to sit way, way back from the bandstand. It's already got a viewing problem because of railing. To kind of make that space a little more user friendly, an idea was floated to have that section of railing be removable but locked in place at all other times. But if you have a performance, if there was still even a concern, you could red rope it while the performance is going on but at least you have a visual of what entertainment is going on up there. On the terrace seating the idea was maybe a limestone retaining wall, grass, limestone retaining wall, grass. They said they would come up with three levels because of the tiering here. Randy even put the grade difference from front to back which would be a nice addition to the park. Jonathan stated I think that's a fantastic idea. Discussion. Tim asked how much did you say is available like \$50,000. Larry confirmed up to \$50,000 and so out of that came these four needs that are on Town Square Improvement Sheet; Upgrade electrical network throughout the park, terrace seating for bandstand, art pads within the park. It is the idea of bringing art to the public. Public art is free for all and kind of encourages creativity. Having maybe some concrete pads that were located in the park where hopefully working with Columbus Area Arts Council, we could become an extension of their sculpture program. Tim asked when you're talking this \$50,000 and you're looking at this, of course \$50,000 is not going to do all this, are you talking about working that in with other monies and doing the whole thing at once. Larry answered it's a matching, number one so if we are awarding \$50,000, we have to come up with \$50,000. If we're awarded \$25,000, we have to come up with \$25,000. We have partners. Heritage of Hope has already committed to \$8,000 right off the bat. Now that could increase if we did some fund raising specifically for the park. I did talk to the local endowment, the Hawcreek Flatrock Area Endowment today. I talked to Bill Hill and Bill Lentz. They said to submit a grant request. The problem with asking for \$10,000 or \$12,000, is that eats the pie for everybody. I made the argument well there is a lot of people that go back to that well year after year. Maybe you could consider this being a year where the whole community benefits because our best asset is being invested in. Discussion. Tim stated I'm for doing all of it. If I had my way that place the day after Heritage Days would get a bull dozer taken to it. Everything would get done and would be back next spring but we have to have some real numbers to work with. Larry answered everybody was given assignments basically. I'm to call the Columbus Area Arts Council and find out what pads they use. The idea is to light those at night as well. This vintage clock, however, is not included in this. The hope is that three people who have passed away that were leaders in the town; Lowell Miller, John Norman and John Baute to be covered through memorial donations and at the base of the clock have those three plaques saying "in memory of". It was mentioned we need to honor Merrill Clouse. It can be in honor of Merrill while he is alive and it would be swapped out to say in memory of after he passes. This vintage clock, Michael Dean has been taking pictures of the clocks he has in mind but they are the old fashion clocks. Discussion. Larry stated Michael said that the one that we would want that it doesn't look cheap. It would represent us very well. It can go in front of Yellow Trail Museum and Shaton's, on that corner. It's clear of trees. Runs about \$8,000. That would come off the price tag. Tim stated at this point all that would really need to be done like that and those art pads, is to have a place for them in that plan to say we are going to need electric here, here and here. You're looking at a lot of money that

needs to be done before you start putting stuff on top of the ground over there. The other thing is and I know they have been beating around how to get it done to get sewer lines over there so they can have restrooms. You're talking another major expense. Larry stated let's say we got to \$25,000, I know Estes might be willing to donate this. A lot of this could be pulled off without great expense but we really won't know until everybody that's doing their homework comes back together. We wanted to make sure the town council thought that this was worthwhile. I think Trena thinks it's doable. I think the lady who is going to be involved in the process thinks it doable. Discussion. Paula stated application due date is February 21st. What we need to have is a scope, we need a budget, who our partners are going to be and commitment from the town. They were talking possibly Riverboat money, getting some businesses involved and endowment. There's a lot of work that needs to be done to even get this grant submitted. Discussion. Diane stated I think David was referring to Riverboat too because he uses some of that for the parks. Larry stated another great thing she said was if we accomplish this, the next step of becoming a Main Street Community again which would cover all the outer ring sidewalks, the beautification, the light poles, planters, banners, benches, trash cans and all that. That's almost a one, two step. Like if we would pull this off that would almost be an assurance that we can go with phase two if money were available. Again that's another grant process. Tim said what about when they sale these bricks for these walk ways. Paula stated we talked about that as well. Discussion. Jonathan stated you said there has got to be commitment from the town. I think we can do that with just the nod of the head. Tim stated you're talking \$50,000 if you got the max. You've got to match it. You've already got twenty some thousand probably. We got Edit money, we do have some park money. Larry stated let's do a face value today. If \$15,000 was committed by a private sector, you guys would have to come up with \$35,000 and then that would match their \$50,000 worst case scenario. I think if we through in opportunities for the public to get involved like the buy a brick, holding fund raising dinners. Discussion. Larry suggested the town commit up to \$35,000. Diane stated I was thinking \$10,000 from Edit and then pull some from Riverboat. Discussion.

Tim made motion that Trena and the board continue their pursuit of this grant and bring their numbers to us at the regular scheduled council meeting. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

LOCK OUTS

Tabled.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT

Bruce stated what I've got for you is numbers from last year's totals and percentages. You can thank my captain, Adam Mathis, for putting all this together. There's runs that we've been dispatched on so we weren't able to respond on. Of course, we don't have records of it. The County Dispatch was able to pull this up. Here's what we've got: Total runs for last year was 436 for the Fire Department total. Ambulance runs 374 which ends up being 86% of our runs. There was 93 times we weren't able to respond an ambulance and 74 times we weren't able to respond at all. Those numbers seem kind of high. A majority of those runs we didn't respond on is the ones out to Millers Merry Manor. I try to get out there when I can but with county dispatch sending Columbus Regional out there first. A lot of guys have said well they're going to beat us out there anyway. Why should we try. I'm trying to work on morale. Tim asked if you guys were billing, would you be billing Miller's when you did make those runs. Bruce confirmed. Paula stated I think there is something in the Medicare rules that you can bill the patient if they're schedule A, Schedule B whatever those numbers are. Discussion. Bruce stated 43% of the time we were able to respond with an ambulance or a fire truck, that's total. It's 25% without the ambulance and 18% not able to respond period. Tim asked fire I'm assuming you guys respond probably 100% on them, don't you. Bruce answered I don't see any totals where we didn't. Tim stated I've never heard of a fire run being missed. Bruce stated I know there has been some times where it has been awfully thin. That's why we have mutual aid with Hartsville, Clifford, Flatrock. Paula stated we have a fire fighting service contract for 14% of what you do because most of its ambulance stuff. You only did 62 fires. If your total is 436 and ambulance is 374, that's like 62 fire. Discussion. Bruce stated we are going to have a meeting Thursday night. We are going to talk more about this across the street about ambulance. I will have more information for you in two weeks. Discussion. Tim asked so are these numbers helping you. Bruce confirmed. Thank Adam. He worked real hard on this. Tim stated honestly it looks like the ambulance percentage responses has dropped in a year. Not a whole lot. I was thinking it was 48% the previous year. Jonathan stated Ed wanted us to consider the

shorter contract. Tim stated the abbreviated contract versus the one you presented, coin toss. I don't think none of those were our hanging points. Our hanging points were to have language on the ambulance service. Jonathan stated I don't think Cindy has had time to look. Tim stated unless Cindy says legally you guys need that in there, I don't care which way that part of it goes. Discussion. Tim stated the language in there as far as ambulance runs and all that stuff, I still as a representative of the town of Hope, I want to see those numbers filled in. Jonathan asked do you want hard and fast or do you want maybe a range. Paula stated I would think we would need a range. Discussion. Tim stated I met with Randy (Woods). Say we're going to pay \$1,000 a year towards the ambulance. That would be based on 50% of the calls being responded to. Then if you only in fact respond to 25% of the calls, then you are only going to get \$500. Use that as an initiative to your fireman or your EMTs to say you guys need to be responding. If you're not responding, we're not getting paid. Randy asked what if we show up to 100%. Tim stated I can see paying you extra if you show up to 100% of them. But I still have a big problem and Randy himself said it that he sits at home, he has calls and he doesn't respond to them if he is doing something. I keep hearing all the pride in the ambulance service but when we don't respond to calls, I'm failing to see the pride. I think keeping that ambulance over there truthfully hurts the town from having the chance of having an ambulance that responds in a lesser amount of time than Columbus does right now. That could respond in the same amount of time that Hope does 100% of the time. My business sense and common sense tells me the best thing the Hope Volunteer Fire Department can do would be to work with CRH and say this ambulance is costing us money, it's a pain in the neck for us to man it. What can we do to ease out of the ambulance service and you guys cover this area better than what you are covering it. The Hope Volunteer Fire Department stick to fighting fires. The money that they would save on that ambulance they could be putting into new fire equipment. They have a good response on their fires. Discussion. Paula asked your firemen still have their EMT. Bruce answered about three or four. Discussion. Bruce stated we have bylaws and standing resolution. I think our standing resolution states that if we pay for your EMT training and you're committed to a year or two, whatever it is, to our department and we are expecting them to still stay and run with us somehow or they pay it back. Discussion. Tim asked what is the importance to the fire department; the biggest pain in the neck you've guys have got trying to man that ambulance. It is a big expense, insurance and all that stuff. What is the purpose that is so driven for the fire department to retain that versus letting Columbus come in and do it full time. Bruce answered pride. Also the fact that we've been providing ambulance service in Bartholomew County longer than anybody. Tim stated I understand the pride thing and I'm told the pride but then when I have the Assistant Chief tell me himself that I don't go out on the calls. I'm burned out with doing it. I don't know what the pride is there if I'm sitting here purposely not responding to a call. I think it's a terrible business deal for you guys. Discussion. Tim stated the EMTs that wanted to be EMTs remain EMTs. They still go on calls. They help stabilize people and everything else but they're waiting on Columbus ambulance versus waiting on somebody to pick them up from the Hope ambulance. Bruce stated if we have somebody who has a code or trouble breathing, there's a lot of times an EMT, if there is one there, will go direct. That happens on a regular basis. Tim stated that could continue. I'm not saying no EMTs in the Hope Volunteer Fire Department. The ambulance is what the expense is. It's what people are sitting and waiting on that may or may not be coming. It is a big hurdle of keeping from getting CRH closer to hope. Hope's average response time is about twelve minutes when they respond. Bruce stated I can't imagine it would be that long. Tim stated Columbus is like eighteen minutes. The difference being Columbus is already sitting right there. They're at the ambulance. Hope has to come to the fire station and then get out there. If they went to Clay Township, Clifford if they could get located closer to where you have them within twelve minutes, they would be twelve minutes 100% of the time. Paula asked wouldn't this have to go through the county. Tim stated its kind of a joint board. They've got the CRH is on it and the Emergency Response, the 911 center down there. Discussion. Tim stated what I suggest is you get the fire department involved. You get with that board and sit down and say look we are wanting increase our responses in Hope. We think you guys are the ones to do it. You might even ask a representative from this area to be put on that board. We are already paying for it through our county taxes. Bruce stated the days of having seven or eight active EMTs, those days are gone. Paula stated I think you guys are working your tails off. If there is any way we can get that spread out without the whole department over there stressing out. We need you for fire coverage and we need you for other things as well. Larry said maybe the dialogue that you're talking about where their represented, the town of Hope is represented. You've got those people. You can set hours where you promise to have EMTs working these hours. Then CRH knows. Tim stated they can't guarantee EMTs at any time because they are a volunteer fire department. Discussion. Paula stated maybe we can get together with some of them, our fire department and maybe some of us and say here's our dilemma. We don't have enough EMTs. We

have a good volunteer department but there are times when we can't respond. How could you guys help us. Maybe they could come up with some ideas to help us. Tim stated I would like to know what it does costs that fire department per year to own that ambulance. You know, the insurance, the maintenance all that stuff. Bruce said there is a lot of money that comes to our general fund from ambulance donations. Tim stated every year we get into this you're needing more money and stuff. We've got an ambulance service that costs the town has paid zero as far as CRH. The town out of our tax dollars would pay them zero. If the fire department can get out of the ambulance business, you'd save yourself \$50,000 per year. I'm just throwing out a figure. I would probably be surprised if it was that cheap. If you save \$50,000 a year, that's saving the tax payers \$50,000 a year somewhere. Bruce stated that would also help us put a new fire apparatus in the station. Both of our engines, one of them really and truly the pump and parts of it was built in 1962. Another one it's approximate 20 years old. We bought it from Plainfield. We had to buy it used. Tim stated it would be a good way of redirecting your money to the fire department. Bruce stated there are things we would like to have that neither one of those things can do. Larry asked could you do something where you commit to giving them a salary to have a full time EMT. The ambulance is gone but you commit to a full time EMT on their staff. Tim asked how are you going to do that when we pay them \$60,000 a year. I'm sure a full time EMT is going to cost you \$40,000 to \$50,000. We would be paying double. Bruce stated we got prices from what the guys were getting paid at Columbus Township and Edinburgh. I think they're starting out around \$30,000. At Columbus Township and Harrison Township too, I think they work ten hour days just during the week. Discussion. Larry asked are you the last fire department to have an ambulance service. Bruce confirmed. Discussion. Bruce stated we still have a lot of people volunteer but since you have to have that EMT, the thing don't roll. Larry asked how deep is the pride thing run over there. Is it a few people. Bruce answered the pride is something special. I think a lot of people are just getting frustrated with the whole thing. A lot of people are just putting their hands in the air. Paula answered I hope you guys don't think we don't care. It does seem like we've had some hassles here and there over the contract. I want you to know at least personally that I really appreciate your service and what you guys do. Tim stated we've got two different things. I don't get complaints on the fire runs. It's strictly on the ambulance. Bruce asked why don't they come to us with their complaints. I have never heard a complaint. Discussion. Bruce stated everybody is having that problem of getting volunteers. Tim stated I'm not arguing that. I'm not arguing that you guys need to do something to bring more EMTs in. We've got a service that can provide the service for us. It just doesn't make good sense whatsoever to spend that kind of money to run an ambulance on 57% of the calls and to put up with the headaches and EMTs that are refusing to respond. People still think that the Town Council is responsible for providing ambulance service to the citizens of Hope. I do think that we are in a position where we are responsible to try to get that in place as much as we can. Bruce stated for 50 years we have been independent from everybody. We own the building. We own all the fire apparatus. Paula stated the community itself and me included before I ever got on the council, I just thought the fire department was part of the town of Hope's responsibility because that's the way it is in Columbus. Bruce stated we incorporated, the stories I hear, at the town's request. Larry stated towns need to be run like a business. That's where this clash is. It's not over whether your hearts in it or not. You can only do so much. You need the support of your departments one way or the other. Discussion. Paula stated I think as far as community is concerned what it all comes down to community, education, what they know and what they don't know, what they think and what they perceive as reality. Larry asked are you able to charge on any ambulance runs, not just to Miller's Merry Manor. Bruce answered yes. Tim stated that's your job as the chief to change that attitude over there. They've gotten to where just want what is given to them. No one is wanting to put effort out to raise any money. Bruce stated the only thing the guys do to raise money is the Heritage Day thing. We have attempted to put bylaws in saying that you will make x amount of fire runs. You will be there for this many community events. Tim stated if they make those guys work together doing that stuff, I think it would build the morale of that fire station. Bruce confirmed it used to. Discussion. Paula stated there are some communities even in the state of Indiana that people have to pay a fire fee. I don't want us to do that though. Bruce stated I was district chairman for Indiana's Volunteer Fireman's Association. I had thirty seven departments in seven counties. Not completely but almost every one of the departments did their business just a little bit different. We are doing the best that we can but there's changes that need to be made. I definitely realize that. Paula stated I think you are doing a good job. I think the departments doing a good job. Get the morale up. I am going to talk to Cindy as far as the language in here to see if that really has to stay in there or if we can do the short contract. Larry stated what about your meeting with them. How would that work to have a meeting with the emergency officials in Columbus. Tim answered truthfully we're trying to get a contract with the fire department for the year of 2014 right now. The

other part I would want it to come from the fire department. I'd be very willing to do anything I can to get everybody to talking on it and see where the possibilities are at. I'm trying to get the best coverage for the people in the town of Hope that we can get. Paula stated I think the fire department is too. I also think it depends on who's the chief at the time. What their morale is. How they go about keeping the morale up. I think, Bruce, when you are there I think it's better. Discussion. Bruce said I will have numbers on how much it costs to run the ambulance for you.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Larry Simpson came up with an ad for our Town Administrator position. Paula stated the only thing I had was down at the bottom, "Qualified candidates will have the appropriate education and previous experience", my comment to that is we should put what the qualifications and education are. Tim stated isn't that in the job description. Larry said that statement lets them decide what they think is the appropriate education and experience. Paula stated we need to tell them what we want as the appropriate education. Larry stated if they go to the website they'll see the eight page description you have. Discussion. Larry stated the best thing is to put it on your website. That way you're not paying \$800 for an ad. Paula stated Bachelor's Degree with emphasis in Public Management or Political Science or equivalent experience in local government. That needs to go there. Previous administrative experience at an executive level. A couple of those things in there need to go up at the top. Larry stated I can change that. Tim stated there are some websites for government positions that I don't think it costs to have them. Paula confirmed some of them are free. Larry stated plus these schools that we know have those degrees, Ball State and IU. Tim stated we've already decided we don't want anybody straight out of school. It's a new position. Whoever is going to take it is going to have to have a lot of experience to basically help us set the position up. Larry said it wouldn't hurt to probably contact them and just say if you are in touch with any of your alumni and you think there is anybody who maybe is wanting to move. Tim stated I'm thinking nationwide. If you get on one of the government sites. People from all over the country look at these things. Discussion. Tim asked do we put the salary on there. Paula answered no. Larry asked do you put it on the website. Paula suggested saying competitive salary and benefits. Larry suggested a range. I think they will want to know before they apply. Paula stated you can do that depending on education and experience. Benefits provided.

Bruce stated thank you Diane and you guys maybe didn't even know about it. They allowed the Fire Department Auxiliary, the photo guy to come in and take his pictures. Friday the lady came back and let everybody look at their proofs. It was a profitable thing for the ladies.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Attest
